

212/497

In the Specification:

On page 1, please amend the paragraph starting on line 18 as follows:

For many arthroscopic surgeries, a rigid cannula is provided into the surgical site and is used to deliver irrigation fluid to the site from a fluid reservoir. A tube is attached between the cannula and an elevated fluid reservoir is provided to deliver the fluid to the cannula. In this case, the rigid cannula is known as an inflow cannula. A second cannula or a suction device for draining fluid from the irrigation site is attached to one port of an arthroscope (or is provided separately). The arthroscope is then introduced into the surgical site. Fluid from the fluid reservoir is introduced into the surgical site by opening a valve on the rigid cannula. Fluid then flows from the reservoir and into the surgical site, thereby irrigating the surgical site. Fluid is removed from the surgical site by activating the suction or by allowing fluid to drain through the second cannula on the arthroscope.

on page 5, please amend the paragraph starting on line 7 as follows:

Figure 15 shows a partial longitudinal cross section of a cannula with a non-linearly tapered outer diameter.

Figure 16 shows a flexible cannula with longitudinal grooves along the outer surface of the cannula.

Figure 17 shows a flexible cannula with circumferentially oriented slots and with circumferential grooves along the outer

212/497

surface of the cannula extending fully around the circumference of the cannula.

Figure 18 shows a flexible cannula with longitudinally oriented slots and circumferential grooves along the outer surface of the cannula extending fully around the circumference of the cannula.

Figure 19 shows a flexible cannula with circumferential grooves along the outer surface of the cannula extending partially around the circumference of the cannula.

On page 7, please amend the paragraph starting on line 1 as follows:

For example, a cannula designed for arthroscopic surgery of the knee has the following dimensions: The outer diameter of the stem 14 at the reference line "a" is approximately 0.169 inches and the inner diameter at this line is approximately 0.119 inches. The outer diameter of the stem 14 at the distal end 18 at reference point "b" is approximately 0.119 inches and the inner diameter at this point is approximately 0.090 inches.

On page 8, please amend the paragraph starting on line 6 as follows:

Figure 6 illustrates that the valve 44 includes an aperture 62 that allows liquid to flow through the valve 46 44 when the valve 44 is open, thereby connecting the lumens 38 and 39. When the valve 46 44 is rotated such that the valve 44 is closed, liquid can no longer pass through the aperture 62, thereby preventing liquid from flowing between the lumens 38 and 39.

212/497

On page 11 please amend the paragraph starting on line 3 as follows:

[.] The cannula is compatible with radiofrequency surgical probes. The cannula is also thermally resistant so that electrical or thermal instruments may be operated through the cannula. In addition, the cannula may be made of an optically absorbing or scattering material so that laser light does not reflect from the cannula. The plastic cannula is also electrically non-conductive.

On page 17 please amend the paragraph starting on line 10 as follows:

The cannula may be differently tapered to form other shapes, so long as the radial thickness of the cannula decreases towards the distal end of the cannula or so long as some other means is provided for making the distal portion of the cannula more flexible than the proximal portion (such as via slots). Another method is to put long, longitudinal grooves 169 (bayonet grooves) along the outer surface of the cannula as shown in figure 16. Slots may be placed in the grooves to increase the flexibility of the distal portion of the cannula. Slotted grooves also allow fluid to flow into and out of the cannula even if the cannula is pressed against tissue. (The grooves prevent tissue from pressing against the slots and blocking the slots.)

On page 17 please amend the paragraph starting on line 22 as follows:

Another method of making the cannula increasingly flexible towards the distal end of the cannula is to provide a number of

212/497

circumferential grooves 170 that are disposed in the distal portion of the cannula and spaced along the longitudinal length of the cannula as shown in Figures 17, 18 and 19. In other words, a number of circumferential sections of the wall of the cannula are provided with a thickness that is less than the thickness of the circumferential wall sections just proximal and just distal of a particular thinner section. For example, one or more circumferential grooves may be placed between any two slots in a particular row of slots (though grooves also may be placed proximally or distally of the rows of slots). Where the rows of slots are about parallel to each other and the slots are longitudinally aligned with each other, the circumferential grooves may extend around the entire circumference of the cannula to further increase the flexibility of the distal end of the cannula.